

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /074 W
-----103778 041146Z /10

R 021450Z MAR 78
FM AMCONGEN NAPLES IT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5939
INFO RUFHOM /AMEMB ROME IT 2356
USDOCOSOUTH

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USDOCOSOUTH FOR INTAF
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT:NON-FORMATION OF CAMPANIA REGIONAL GOVERNMENT-PCI DISPLEASURE
REF: 1977 NAPLES 2309

1. INTER PARTY DISCUSSIONS ON FORMATION OF A CAMPANIA REGIONAL GOVERNMENT GIUNTA HAVE BEEN PROCEEDING AT THE ANTICIPATED SNAILS PACE SINCE DECEMBER 29 RESIGNATION OF THE DC/PSI/PSDI/PRI GIUNTA (REFTEL). NO ONE EXPECTED THE CAMPANIA POLITICAL CRISIS TO BE RESOLVED UNTIL THE NATIONAL SITUATION WAS CLARIFIED AND EARLY JANUARY PREDICTIONS WERE FOR AGREEMENT ON NEW GIUNTA BY END OF MARCH.
2. FOLLOWING AND PERHAPS RELATED TO EVENTS IN AVELLINO AND AT NAPLES

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CITY HALL WHERE DC INITIATIVES MAY HAVE CAUGHT THE COMMUNISTS OFF-GUARD (SEPTELS) THE CAMPANIA PCI SUDDENLY DEMANDED IN LATE FEBRUARY THAT THE DC IMMEDIATELY DECIDE WHETHER IT WOULD FORM A GOVERNMENT OF "REGIONAL UNITS" INCLUDING THE PCI. IT WAS, OF COURSE, THAT PCI DEMAND FOR INCLUSION IN EXECUTIVE WHICH CAUSED THE DECEMBER GIUNTA RESIGNATION.
3. AT A FEBRUARY 25 INTER PARTY MEETING WHICH PCI TERMED DECISIVE,
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THE DC PREFERRED TO LIMIT DISCUSSION TO A REGIONAL "PROGRAM ACCORD". THE PCI CONSIDERED THIS NOT ONLY INSUFFICIENT BUT A RETREAT FROM DE FACTO DC ACCEPTANCE OF THE PCI IN A CAMPANIA POLITICAL MAJORITY SINCE JULY 1977. THEREFORE, COMMUNIST SPOKESMEN DECLARED REGIONAL TALKS AT AN IMPASSE. PCI REGIONAL SECRETARY, ANTONIO BASSOLINO SUGGESTED THAT RECENT DC MOVES IN AVELLINO AND ON THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT WERE LEADING TO A "BREAK" IN THE LINKS AMONG "DEMORATIC

FORCES". THE REGIONAL PCI DIRECTORATE NOW CALLS FOR THE CAMPANIA REGIONAL COUNCIL TO OPENLY DEBATE AND FORCE THE ISSUE OF GIUNTA COMPOSITION.

4. THE SOCIALIST PARTY'S SPOKESMEN EXPRESS BASIC AGREEMENT WITH THE PCI POSITION. SOCIALISTS HAVE SUGGESTED THE FORMATION OF A LEFTIST MINORITY GIUNTA WITH THE DC IN OPPOSITION, A GIUNTA IMPOSSIBLE TO

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FORM, HOWEVER, WITHOUT DC OR MSI CONCURRENCE. OTHER LAY PARTIES ARE WILLING TO POSTPONE FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT QUESTION IS DECIDED.

5. DC DELAYING TACTICS ARE REINFORCED BY A NATIONAL SECRETARIAT INSTRUCTION TO "FREEZE" REGIONAL NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL TALKS ON GOVERNMENT IN ROME CONCLUDED. IN ANY CASE DC OFFICIALS STATE NOW AS THEY DID IN JANUARY THAT THE CAMPANIA POLITICAL QUESTION MUST AWAIT A ROME SETTLEMENT AND THEY CONTEND THAT WHEN A NEW GIUNTA IS FORMED THE PCI WILL NOT BE ON IT. BEYOND ITS CALL FOR AN "EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT" THE PCI IS PRESSING FOR A REDUCTION IN GIUNTA MEMBERS (NINE INSTEAD OF 13) WITH THOSE NINE BEING MORE "TECHNICALLY" THAN "POLITICALLY" QUALIFIED. THE PCI IS SAID TO CONSIDER SUCH A CHANGE POTENTIALLY USEFUL IN REDUCING DC CONTROL OVER REGIONAL PATRONAGE AND BLURRING THE PARTY-GIUNTA RELATIONSHIP. THE DC WILL RESIST SUCH PRESSURE, HOPING TO LIMIT THE PCI TO ITS ROLE AS PART OF THE DE FACTO POLITICAL MAJORITY IN REGIONAL COUNCIL.COLANTONIO.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NAPLES00398
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780099-0415
Format: TEL
From: NAPLES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803115/aaaadthw.tel
Line Count: 94
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: caddbab9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3141573
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NON-FORMATION OF CAMPANIA REGIONAL GOVERNMENT-PCI DISPLEASURE
TAGS: PINT, IT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/caddbab9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014